

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 182240

13

ORIGIN EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MBFR-02 /005 R

66630

DRAFTED BY: EUR/SOV: J.F. MATLOCK

APPROVED BY: EUR/SOV: J.F. MATLOCK

D/MBFR: RBARAZ (SUBS)

----- 101006

R 142126Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182240

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 182240 SENT ACTION NATO INFO ALL NATO
CAPITALS SEPT. 13:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY ON NEGOTIATING
POSITION

REF: STATE 181638

1. WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 13 PUBLISHED THE TOTH STORY
DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. GUIDANCE TO MAKE NO COMMENT STILT AP-
PLIES.

2. FOR MISSION'S BACKGROUND, TEXT OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO RELAX COLD WAR MILITARY
POSTURES, THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NATO ALLIES WILL SOON
PROPOSE TO THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES THAT EACH SIDE CUT
ITS TOTAL FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO THE SAME LEVEL OF
ABOUT 700,000 MEN, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES HAS LEARNED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 182240

THIS WOULD MEAN A 10 PERCENT NATO REDUCTION AND A 20 PERCENT
WARSAW BLOC REDUCTION, TO TAKE PLACE OVER SEVERAL YEARS.

FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, THE CUTS WOULD
BE DEEPER -- 15 PERCENT BY EACH NATION IN THE FIRST PHASE,
WHICH COULD BEGIN NEXT YEAR, AND PERHAPS ANOTHER 15 PER-
CENT IN THE SUBSEQUENT PHASE.

NUMERICALLY, 28,500 AMERICAN SOLDIERS WOULD COME BACK IN
THE FIRST PHASE, AND PERHAPS 3,000 U.S. AIRMEN, IF THE
SOVIETS CAN SUCCESSFULLY BARGAIN FOR AIR FORCE AS WELL
AS GROUND TROOP CUTS.

ON THE SOVIET SIDE, THE FIRST PHASE WOULD MEAN THE WITH-
DRAWAL OF 67,500 MEN, WITH NATO EXPECTED TO CALL FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF SOME SOVIET ARMOR UNITS AS WELL AS FOOT
SOLDIERS.

THE NATO PROPOSAL, WHICH LARGELY ADOPTS A U.S. PLAN PRE-
SENTED TO THE ALLIANCE IN JUNE, SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR-
MALLY VERY SOON. IT WILL GO BEFORE THE MUTUAL AND BAL-
ANCED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS THAT RECONVENE IN VIENNA
OCT. 30.

THESE TALKS WILL RIVAL IN INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE THE
INITIAL STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS (SALT) WHICH
CULMINATED IN A SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENT AT THE 1972
MOSCOW SUMMIT.

THE SCHEME SHOULD SATISFY TO SOME EXTENT THOSE CONGRESSMEN
WHO HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR DEEP CUTS IN U.S. FORCES ABROAD,
TO BE MADE UNILATERALLY IF NECESSARY. MIKE MANSFIELD
(D-MONT.), THE SENATE'S MAJORITY LEADER, RECENTLY PRO-
POSED A 50 PERCENT CUT IN AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS ABROAD
OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD, WITH AT LEAST 25 PERCENT FROM
EACH MAJOR THEATER OF OPERATION, SUCH AS EUROPE.

IF THE SOVIET-LED WARSAW BLOC EVENTUALLY ACCEPTS THE NATO
PROPOSAL, UP TO 30 PERCENT OF U.S. GROUND FORCES IN
EUROPE WILL BE BROUGHT BACK WITHIN THE MANSFIELD TIME-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 182240

TABLE.

UNLESS THE MEN ARE DEMOBILIZED, HOWEVER, LITTLE MONETARY
SAVING WILL RESULT AND PERHAPS, IF HUGE NEW AIR TRANSPORT
SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED TO RETURN THEM QUICKLY IN TIME OF CRI-
SIS, THEY MAY COST MORE TO BE STATIONED HERE THAN IN
EUROPE. END TEXT. RUSH

UNQUOTE. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE182240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SOV: J.F. MATLOCK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DEAN, J
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730936/aaaabami.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 181638
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY ON NEGOTIATING POSITION
TAGS: PARM, US, NATO
To: NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005